



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: President's Park

2. Project Description:

Project Name: Temporary Security Improvements to E Street

Prepared by: Tobin Tracey **Date Prepared:** 12/30/2014 **Telephone:** 202-219-0322

PEPC Project Number: 55970

Locations:

Describe project:

Background

E Street south of the White House has been temporally closed since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In the immediate aftermath of the temporary closure, the United States Secret Service installed temporary security elements and associated infrastructure to immediately secure E Street and the Ellipse, and restrict vehicle traffic on the E Street roadway between 15th and 17th Streets and on the Ellipse roadways. In the period since the temporary security elements were installed, this equipment has been in use daily, has experienced failures, exceeded its useful life, and now requires replacement.

Concurrently with this effort, the Secret Service has been working with the National Park Service (NPS), the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, the District of Columbia government, and other stakeholders, to develop a permanent plan to close E Street south of the White House and install durable, more aesthetically pleasing security elements to replace the temporary security elements currently in place in this area.

While the Secret Service is fully committed to the permanent project, this effort is currently in the environmental assessment stage and it will be several more years before the Secret Service and NPS are in a position to begin installing permanent security elements.

In order to continue to protect the White House Complex and to ensure that the officers working in this area are properly protected, it is necessary to maintain the existing temporary security posture and replace the security elements that are failing or inadequate.

Description of Work

The purpose of this project is to rearrange existing temporary booths, replace existing temporary security barriers, and install a new temporary booth and temporary security barriers and enhancement of the vehicle screening checkpoints at 15th and E Street, NW; 17th and E Street, NW; and 16th and Constitution Avenue, NW. Ground disturbance for the project will include an 18" deep trench in E Street to feed power to the temporary booths, and a larger trench, approximately 3'-0" deep, around the perimeter of the Ellipse to provide data and power to the booth at 16th Street.

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])

The area of Potential Effect is encompassed by Independence Avenue to the south, 14th Street NW to the east, H Street to the north, and 18th Street NW to the west.

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?

☐ No

☒ Yes

Source or reference:

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

Archeological Resources Notes: The potential area of effect where the work is proposed is entirely located with the President's Park South National Register Historic District. Archeological reports were completed for previous projects disturbing the ground in this location in 1995, 2003 and 2007. Archeological finds of rubble used as fill were located from approximately one foot below grade to a depth of four feet below grade. Foundations for historic structures are located from approximately one and one-half feet to four and one-half feet below grade and have been documented.

Historical Structures/Resources Notes: Multiple historic structures individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places are located within the APE.

Cultural Landscapes Notes: The Ellipse is a cultural landscape.

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)

☐ No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

☐ No Replace historic features/elements in kind

☐ No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

☐ Yes Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

☐ Yes Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

☐ No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

☐ No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

☐ No Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

☐ No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

☐ No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)

☐ Other (please specify): _____

6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

Assessment of Effect Form - Temporary Security Improvements to E Street - PEPC ID: 55970

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

[X] 106 Advisor

Name: Craig Chenevert

Date: 01/27/2015

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No

Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Archeologist

Name: Stephen Potter

Date: 01/15/2015

Comments: The Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been previously disturbed, making it highly unlikely that any archeological resource will be affected by the proposed undertaking.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No

Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Because this project involves above-ground infrastructure which will be visible from an above-ground historic property, it will need to be reviewed through the Standard 4-Step Process.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Maureen Joseph

Date: 01/27/2015

Comments: Minor layout changes to the temporary security infrastructure for E Street and President's Park.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No

Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, Other Advisor, Anthropologist

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Assessment of Effect Form - Temporary Security Improvements to E Street - PEPC ID: 55970

1. Assessment of Effect:

- ☐ No Potential to Cause Effects
☐ No Historic Properties Affected
☐ No Adverse Effect
☒ Adverse Effect

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

N/A

4. Stipulations and Conditions:

N/A

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:

Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:
(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Compliance Specialist:

NHPA

Specialist

Wookun Kim



Date:

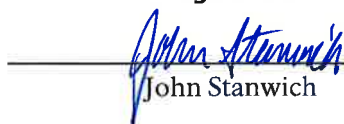
2/27/15

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Signature

Superintendent:


John Stanwich

Date:

2/27/15



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Temporary Security Improvements to E Street

PEPC Project Number: 55970

Project Description:

Background

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Project Locations:

Location

County:	District of Columbia	State:	DC
District:		Section:	
Geo.		Other:	
Marker:			

Categorical Exclusion Form - Temporary Security Improvements to E Street - PEPC ID: 55970

Mitigation(s):

- No mitigations identified.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

C.18 Construction of minor structures, including small improved parking lots, in previously disturbed or developed areas.

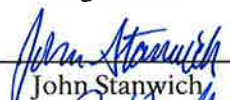
Explanation:

In addition to C.18, C.15 Installation of underground utilities in previously disturbed areas having stable soils, or in an existing utility right-of-way applies. The one officer booth being added will sit on the surface of the ground. All locations where utilities are being located are in disturbed areas where other utilities are located.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Signature

Superintendent:


John Stanwich

Date:

2/27/15

NPS Contact:


MARTIN J. HOWELL

Date:

2/27/2015



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 12/30/2014

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 Departmental Manual revisions and proposed Director's Order 12 changes

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: President's Park
Project Title: Temporary Security Improvements to E Street
PEPC Project Number: 55970
PMIS Number:
Project Type: Equipment Replacement (EQR)
Project Location:
County, State: District of Columbia, District of Columbia
Project Leader: Martin Howell
Administrative Record Location: Senior Architect for the White House
Administrative Record Contact: Martin Howell
Notes:

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

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Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Temporary Security Improvements to E Street - PEPC ID: 55970

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Target compliance completion date: 02/27/2015

Projected advertisement/Day labor start:

Construction start date:

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? No

C. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.	No				
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes	No				
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				

10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		Negligible			Visitor experience will only have a minor disruption while the work is actually being done.
18. Archeological resources	No				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				

20. Cultural landscapes		Negligible			The temporary structures already exist at 15th and 17th Streets. The temporary structure being added at 16th Street is being located outside of the defined view shed.
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway	No				

communities, etc.					
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		N		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		N		
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		N		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		N		

E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		N		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		N		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		N		
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		N		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		N		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		N		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		N		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the		N		

range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?				
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For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

E. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes
- 1.A. Did personnel conduct a site visit? No
2. Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No
3. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? Yes
- 3.A. Did you make a diligent effort to contact them? Yes
4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed?
5. Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project) No

F. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DETERMINING APPROPRIATE NEPA PATHWAY

First, always check DO-12, section 3.2, "Process to Follow" in determining whether the action is categorically excluded from additional NEPA analyses. Other sections within DO-12, including sections 2.9 and 2.10; 3.5; 4.5(G)(4) and (G)(5), and 5.4(F), should also be consulted in determining the appropriate NEPA pathway. Complete the following tasks: conduct a site visit or ensure that staff is familiar with the site's specifics; consult with affected agencies, and/or tribes; and interested public and complete this environmental screening form.

If your action is described in DO-12 section 3.3, "CEs for Which No Formal Documentation is Necessary," follow the instructions indicated in that section.

If your action is not described in DO-12, section 3.3, and IS described in section 3.4, AND you checked YES or identified "data needed to determine" impacts in any block in section D (Mandatory Criteria), this is an indication that there is potential for significant impacts to the human environment, therefore, you must prepare an EA or EIS or supply missing information to determine context, duration, and intensity of impacts.

If your action is described in section 3.4 and NO is checked for all boxes in section D (Mandatory Criteria), AND there are either no effects or all of the potential effects identified in section C (Resource Effects to Consider) are no more than minor intensity, usually there is no potential for significant impacts and an EA or EIS is not required. If, however, during internal scoping and further investigation, resource effects still remain unknown, or are at the minor to moderate level of intensity, and the potential for significant impacts may be likely, an EA or EIS is required.

In all cases, data collected to determine the appropriate NEPA pathway must be included in the administrative record.

G. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

All interdisciplinary team members sign as directed or deemed necessary by the Superintendent. By signing this form, you affirm the following: you have either completed a site visit or are familiar with the specifics of the site; you have consulted with affected agencies and tribes; and you, to the best of your knowledge, have answered the questions posed in the checklist correctly.

H. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Field of Expertise

Project Leader

Martin Howell

Field of Expertise

Technical Support

Technical Specialist

Joel Gorder

Designer

Martin Howell

Historical Landscape Architect

Maureen Joseph

NEPA Specialist

Wookun Kim

NHPA Specialist

Wookun Kim

Archeologist

Stephen Potter

106 Advisor

Perry Wheelock

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialist:

NEPA

Wookun Kim



Date:

2/27/15

NHPA

Wookun Kim



Date:

2/27/15

Approved:

Superintendent:


John Stanwich

Date:

2/27/15